



## *The Old Ironsides Report*

17 July 2003

### Dempsey assumes command of "Old Ironsides" Division



Brig. Gen. Martin E. Dempsey accepts the 1st Armored Division's colors from Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, V Corps commanding general, during change of a command ceremony July 16. Before assuming command of the division from Maj. Gen. Fred D. Robinson, Jr., Brig. Gen. Dempsey worked in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as the Program Manager for that country's National Guard Modernization Program. Maj. Gen. Robinson will be reporting to the Pentagon to work in the Emergency Relief Mobilization Office. Photo by Spc. Christopher Stanis, 1 AD PAO.

### Paratroopers, civil affairs soldiers team up to help Iraqi disabled veterans

By Maj. James Bozeman, 411th Civil Affairs Bn. and Maj. Todd Mercer, 2nd Bde. Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** - Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division and the 411th Civil Affairs Battalion went to the aid of fellow soldiers at the Al Thurya Disabled Veterans Home.

The veterans' community in the Al Rashid District of Baghdad is home to Iraqi veterans wounded in various battles over the duration of Saddam Hussein's regime. The veterans comprise a cross-section of the military and with their families, the walled community numbers more than 800.

During the lawlessness in April after Saddam's regime fell, the community experienced looting and robbery from fellow Iraqis.

The center's clinic and community center were robbed of furniture, fixtures, windows, plumbing, doors and ornamental brick.

Some veterans' wheelchairs and beds were stolen.

Detachment B, 411th Civil Affairs Bn. working with the 2nd BCT, set to work to bring the necessary repairs, expertise and funding together to return the veterans' community to a condition befitting the Iraqi heroes who reside there.

"We search for the underlying problems, find solutions -- not band aids, for those problems -- and ensure no soldier is forgotten," said Maj. Gary Barwikowski, detachment commander.

Coordination was made with the Ministries of Defense, Health, and Social Services as well as non-governmental organizations and coalition commanders to ensure that these former soldiers are not forgotten.

Dr. (Maj.) Daniel Irizarry, brigade surgeon, organized teams of doctors and medical professionals from the Iraqi military, KFHI and Company C, 407th Forward Support Battalion to complete detailed physicals on all 137 veterans. The physicals established baseline physical conditions for all the veterans.

Irizarry also coordinated the long-term care of the veterans, to be accomplished by Iraqi military physicians through the Ministry of Health.

The Islamic Relief, provided 10 wheelchairs as replacements for those that were stolen. The Ministry of Oil restarted to resupply Liquid Propane Gas, used for cooking and heating.

According to Sgt. First Class Ronald McGraw, detachment operations sergeant, a contract in excess of \$90,000 was let for reconstruction of the community center using 1st AD Commander's CERP funds. The work under the community center contract has already begun, and is expected to be completed by the end of this August.

The veteran's pensions resumed July 15 and are based on the veteran's rank. The long-term plan is for the pensions to provide the same or more income than prior to the war, said Barwikowski.

"We are working numerous projects and attempting to get funding and support from many areas," said Command Sgt. Maj. Arlindo Almeida, 411th CA Bn. "These soldiers served honorably and should hold a place of respect in their culture, and not be the victims of looting."

## NEWS

### 4 Die in U.S. Helicopter Crash in Italy

WASHINGTON (AP) - Four crew members were killed Wednesday in a fiery crash of a U.S. Navy helicopter in Italy, a Pentagon spokesman said. Lt. Dan Hetlage said the MH-53E Sea Dragon helicopter crashed Wednesday evening about 10 miles southwest of the Navy base at Sigonella on the island of Sicily. Names of those killed are being withheld while next of kin are notified, he said.

### Soldier Faces Kuwait Attack Court-Martial

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. (AP) - A soldier charged in the grenade attack that killed two officers from the 101st Airborne Division in Kuwait will face a court-martial, the military announced Wednesday. Sgt. Hasan Akbar, 32, is charged with two counts of premeditated murder and three counts of attempted murder and could face the death penalty if convicted.

### Texas Deals With Mess in Claudette's Wake

VICTORIA, Texas (AP) - The rainy, windy weather system left over from Hurricane Claudette hurried across South Texas into Mexico on Wednesday after spreading damage along the coast and killing two people. Roofs were peeled away, trailers were flattened, building facades collapsed and gas station canopies were twisted along the path the storm followed from its landfall on the Gulf Coast, the first hurricane to hit Texas in four years.

### Thousands Flee Blaze on Ariz. Reservation

WHITERIVER, Ariz. (AP) - The governor declared a state of emergency in two counties as a forest fire swept across an Indian reservation, forcing thousands of people to leave their homes as a precaution. Elsewhere in the Southwest, Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado was closed to visitors for the second time in two years because of wildfires.

#### **Chaplain's thought for the day: Hang in there!**

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. (NIV) Galatians 6:9

Reaping a good harvest takes hard work and patience. Paul (the author of Galatians) encourages us to not give up. . . to "keep on keepin on"!

What are you tired of? Are you looking to the harvest or just maintaining what is going on today? Have you given up already?

The best reason for resisting weariness and giving up is that God never gives up on us. He hangs in there with us.

The next time you get weary; fix your eyes on God. And remember, KEEP ON KEEPIN ON!

## SPORTS

### Nine cities in running for 2012 Games

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) -- New York, Paris, London and Moscow are among the nine cities formally in the running to host the 2012 Summer Olympic Games, the IOC said Wednesday.

"We are delighted to announce such a long list of prestigious cities", IOC President Jacques Rogge said in a statement. "I believe this reflects the strong image of the Olympic Games and the IOC's policy of reinvesting revenues in the staging of the Games and the care for a strong urban legacy."

The nine bidders are: Havana, Cuba; Istanbul, Turkey; Leipzig, Germany; London; Madrid, Spain; Moscow; New York; Paris; and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The cities are not yet formally "candidates" for the games as the IOC still must review their potential to organize the event.

The IOC will announce which of the cities are candidates in May of next year. The final decision will be taken on July 6, 2005, during an IOC meeting in Singapore.

### *In other news...*

#### **Valuables Stolen As Marine Saves Boy**

HONOLULU (AP) -- A good deed is a costing a Marine plenty.

Cpl. Quentin Gwynn jumped into the ocean near a popular Honolulu tourist spot to save a teenager from drowning. During the rescue someone swiped his valuables.

Firefighters credit Gwynn, on vacation after serving in the war in Iraq, with saving the 16-year-old boy's life on Monday.

After the commotion, Gwynn and his girlfriend realized that someone had stolen her backpack, which contained a camera, identification, money, credit cards and a key to their rented motorcycle.

Gwynn arrived in Hawaii on Sunday aboard the USS Bonhomme Richard. The ship had deployed Jan. 17 for Iraq.

The couple were about to take a leap from a diving rock Monday when there was a panicked cry for help from the boy's friend. Gwynn said the youth's body was limp and cold when he was pulled out of the water. He wasn't breathing and had no pulse.

The Marine helped revive the boy by performing CPR.

The teen was later taken to a hospital.

## TODAY'S WEATHER

**High: 109F**

**Low: 84F**

